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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT TOPIC Military Activities in the Dessau Area

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 28 April 1955

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REFERENCES PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 31 March and 2, 5, 7 and 9 April 1955, the barracks installation in Rossau (3401) near Dessau was occupied as previously by 4,500 to 5,000 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets including some with tank artillery insignia. Intensive drill of some 800 soldiers and instruction of groups of soldiers on 6 to 8 tanks were observed in the installation. 25X1

2. The training area between the installation and the road to Meinsdorf was being improved and reconditioned by 700 to 800 soldiers. Drill and field training of 500 to 600 soldiers were held at the southern edge of this training area. Trucks entered and left the installation. 25X1

3. On 31 March and 4 and 7 April, the barracks installation in Kochstedt (3241) was occupied as previously by some 3,500 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets including some with tank and artillery insignia. Between 600 and 800 soldiers engaged in drill, fatigue duty and servicing of motor vehicles in the installation. Fifty to 70 soldiers received instruction on 4 x 76-mm and 85-mm AA guns and some 200 soldiers received instruction on 4 to 6 x 57-mm AT guns. 25X1

4. At about 1600 on 4 April, 4 T-34/85 tanks entered the installation from the direction of Oranienburg. Trucks entered and left the installation. 25X1

5. The Oranienbaum training grounds east of Dessau reportedly extended over approximately 8 km. No other details could be obtained because of strict security measures. 3

6. The following loadings and unloadings were observed at the Dessau railroad station between 29 March and 8 April: 25X1

29 March. Between 0600 and 0900, unloading of 6 T-34/85 tanks, 4 three-axle armored scout cars, 22 trucks and some 500 soldiers, which left toward Dessau-Sued.

5 April. Between 0500 and 0800, loading of 1 T-34/85 tank, 2 x 57-mm AT guns, 13 armored personnel carriers, 17 trucks and some 600 soldiers.

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7 April. Between 0400 and 0830, unloading of 2 trains carrying a total of 16 T-34/85 tanks, 12 JS-2 tanks, 37 trucks and some 800 soldiers, which left toward Aken-Brambach.

8 April. Between 0200 and 0800, unloading of 3 trains carrying a total of 15 T-34/85 tanks, 11 JS-2 tanks, 48 trucks and more than 1,000 soldiers, which left toward Oranienbaum.

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7. Between 4 and 8 April, the barracks installation in Rosslau was occupied by some 3,000 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. Eight medium tanks, 6 three-axle armored personnel carriers and radio trucks were seen in the installation. In addition to the tank unit, the installation reportedly quartered an AT unit and an AAA unit. It was definitely determined that the civilian hospital with 4 buildings was detached from the area of the installation.
8. On 12 April, the installation was believed to have been occupied by less than 3,000 soldiers. An advance detail of approximately 200 soldiers had presumably left. At about 1720, the truck parking lots of the installation, which had been occupied to capacity, were empty.
On 15 April, some 50 soldiers received instruction on 6 to 8 tanks in the west section of the installation. At about 2000, the 4 large quartering buildings in the northwest corner of the installation were 50 percent lighted. The other barracks buildings were fully lighted.
9. The Kapen ammunition depot was located in the wooded area east of Dessau, south of the Millensee - Oranienbaum road. The depot had been occupied by the Soviets and the area had been restricted since 1945. The restricted area had been enlarged toward the south and included the entire wooded area between Millensee, Kapen, Oranienbaum, Juedenberg, Sollnitz and Kleutsch. A watch tower, 30 meters high, which was located east of Sollnitz, was occupied by Soviet sentries. Between 1947 and 1948, ammunition was manufactured in the Kapen depot. Approximately 90 civilians were employed there. No information had been received on the amount of ammunition produced. Many tanks were stationed in the south section of the restricted area.
On 7 March 1955, 4 tanks with T-34 chassis, turtle-shaped turret with 2 driver's hatches and long barrel with a caliber of 90 to 120 mm were seen en route toward Vockerode. The tanks came from a southern direction. On 14 March, tanks reportedly proceeded on the Kleutsch - Sollnitz - Gross Moehlau road throughout the night. On 15 March, heavy imprints of tank tracks and deeply rutted roads were seen. On 28 March, roads in the wooded area near Juedenberg were also deeply rutted. Imprints of the tank tracks led toward Graefenhainichen. A night exercise had reportedly been conducted in this area. On 29 March, heavy imprints of tank tracks were seen on the Rosslau - Dessau road. The tracks led toward the woods near Kleutsch. Four tanks were observed. Engineer soldiers constructed a bridge across the Mulde River, west of the autobahn near Kleutsch, presumably for the tanks.
1. Comment. The information does not indicate any major changes in the Kaserne in Rosslau near Dessau prior to 9 April 1955. It cannot be determined, whether the decrease of the occupation strength

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by 200 soldiers was connected with the departure for a summer camp of an advance detail or not, It is rather believed that the 200 soldiers left for short-term exercises in the Oranienbaum training area. See [] Comment 3. The dividing-off of the civilian hospital is reported for the first time. []

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2. [] Comment. The information fails to indicate any major changes in the Kochstedt Kaserne near Dessau. []

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[] The 4 tanks, which were observed on 4 April, probably came from the Oranienbaum training area.

3. [] Comment. The description of the restricted area of Kapen, east of Dessau, is received for the first time. In early March, it had been reported that wood had been cut in this area, which was probably prepared as post training grounds and firing range for the 7th Gds Tank Div stationed in the Dessau area.

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4. [] Comment. The loadings and unloadings cannot be explained. The units which were detrained on 29 March and 8 April probably transferred to the Oranienbaum area.

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